

CLASSROOM READY Weekly News

LEVEL 1

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Who Is Dr. Theresa Tam?

Did you know Canada has a chief public health officer? Dr. Theresa Tam was named Canada's chief public health officer (CPHO) on June 26, 2017. The CPHO is the federal government's leading health care professional. She provides advice to the minister of health and leads the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The CPHO also works with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments. In Canada, most health care matters are handled by provincial and territorial governments. The CPHO plays a key role in making sure these governments work closely with each other. Dr. Tam also talks with private companies on how to deal with public health issues.

Dr. Tam is a doctor who is an expert on immunization,

infectious diseases, and how to prepare for public health emergencies.

Tam was born in Hong Kong in 1965. She grew up in the United Kingdom where she got her medical degree. Soon after, she moved to Canada and did her **residency** at the University of Alberta. Then, she got additional medical training at the University of British Columbia. She specialized in diseases that affect children.

Dr. Tam has spent 20 years working on public health issues in Canada. She played a leading role in Canada's responses to previous public health emergencies. These include the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) **outbreak** from 2002 to 2004, and the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009.

Dr. Tam has been a leading figure in Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To

help remind people about the importance of personal hygiene, social distancing, and not taking unnecessary trips during the pandemic, Dr. Tam has appeared in a number of videos on TV and online.

Tam had described public health as "harnessing the efforts of many to protect and promote the health of all Canadians, including the most vulnerable in society." That has never been more true than now.★



DID YOU KNOW

The Public Health Agency of Canada was created in 2004. It was created after the SARS crisis to strengthen Canada's ability to respond to national public health threats.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/gdjo>

Video



WORD POWER

INFECTIOUS DISEASE: A disease that can be spread from one person to another.

RESIDENCY: A period of advanced medical training and education that a doctor takes to become an expert in a specialty area, like surgery, pediatrics, or internal medicine.

OUTBREAK: When a disease occurs more frequently than expected.

Who Is Dr. Theresa Tam?

1. Who is Canada's chief public health officer?

2. What does the CPHO do?

3. What role does the CPHO play when it comes to working with other levels of government?

4. On what is Dr. Tam an expert?

5. Where did Dr. Tam go to school? What was her specialty?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Do you think that Dr. Tam's experience is enough for the role that she has? Explain your answer.

The Public Health Agency of Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada has been created to deliver on the Government of Canada's commitment to help protect the health and safety of all Canadians. Its activities focus on preventing chronic diseases, like cancer and heart disease, preventing injuries and responding to public health emergencies and infectious disease outbreaks.

The Public Health Agency of Canada empowers Canadians to improve their health. In partnership with others, its activities focus on preventing disease and injuries, promoting good physical and mental health, and providing information to support informed decision making. It values scientific excellence and provides national leadership in response to public health threats.

Use the information above and your own research to explain what the Public Health Agency of Canada does.

Word Power

Using the words defined below, fill in the blank in each of the following sentences with the word that fits best. All of the words have been used in the article.

1. Pneumonia is a _____ illness that affects the lungs.
2. Washing your hands and brushing your teeth are part of personal _____,
3. A lawyer is a _____.
4. Every year, many people get sick with a type of _____.
5. The mayor is the head of the _____ government.

Hygiene: The practice of keeping clean.

Influenza: The flu; a disease caused by a virus.

Municipal: Having to do with a city or town, or its government.

Pandemic: Widespread over a large area or region.

Professional: A person who has an occupation that requires special education and training.

Respiratory: Having to do with breathing.

Role: A part that a person plays in life.

Specialized: To make a special study of something or work only in a special branch of some profession.

Quiz

1. Dr. Theresa Tam was named Canada's chief public health officer (CPHO) on June 26, 2017.
True False
2. In Canada, most health care matters are handled by the federal government.
True False
3. Dr. Tam is a _____ who is an expert on immunization, infectious diseases, and how to prepare for public health emergencies.
4. Dr. Tam specialized in diseases that affect _____.
5. Dr. Tam played a leading role in _____'s responses to previous public health emergencies.